



Rakkasans

D Co 1-187 INF



NEWSLETTER ISSUE #11

November

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Message from Dragon 6

Hello everyone from Iraq. A lot of things have happened since the last update, but hopefully we are all receptive to change. I know the mailing address has changed almost every time I turn my head, but I think now we have a solid one that will stay with us throughout the entire deployment.

The company has officially conducted its transfer of authority and is fully operational in our sector. As you all probably know, our company has been attached to a battalion from the 3rd Infantry Division. Things change frequently, and assets are needed all over Iraq and D Co was chosen in this capacity. The living conditions at our current location are very good and the morale of the soldiers appears to be very high.

Day to day business consists of mounted patrols, manning observation posts, MSR sweeps, and battalion quick reaction force missions. All in all, the soldiers are always finding their time occupied and the days continue to fly by. I'd like to thank all of the families who have and continue to maintain contact with their soldier. The packages and letters are rolling in and it really keeps the soldier's morale up. So again, thank you.

I stress again the Rakkasan website as it is a good place to find out the news and pictures. Links to all these newsletters are placed on there as well, so if you have family and friends who do not receive the newsletter, please let them know about the website. Again, it is www.rakkasan.net/1-187.

As the company progresses with its combat mission over the course of the next year, I encourage you to keep in contact with your soldier. Communication is important and will allow both you and your soldier the opportunity to reflect on experiences. I want to thank everyone again for being so supportive during these times. Thanks again.

May God continue to bless the Rakkasans.

-CPT Neil J. Myres-

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nov 23 Thanksgiving Dinner
Dec 3rd Tailgate party
Dec 10th Christmas party
Dec 13th Deployment brief

The Address :

Rank your soldiers name
Delta Co 1-187 3rd BCT 101ST
FOB Remagen
APO, AE 09349

HELPFUL RESOURCES

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICES
270-798-9322

AMERICAN RED CROSS
270-798-2171

**COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS CAN BE FOUND AT THE FOLLOWING
WEB SITE www.fortcampbellmwr.com/info**



SPC Watts was born in Fayetteville, NC and raised in Knoxville, TN. Bradley has been in the Army for almost 2 years and will be celebrating his 21st Birthday here in Iraq in July. SPC Watts is currently assigned to 2nd Platoon and has been in D Co almost 2 years. This is his first deployment and already Bradley is exhibiting characteristics of a combat veteran. Currently Bradley is working as a dismounted rifleman on observation posts, combat patrols, and commander's escort missions. He plays a vital role as a security element for his platoon and has been performing above the standard since arriving in theatre. Bradley continues to demonstrate his ability to adapt to an ever-changing environment and his actions continue to make this company's mission a success. SPC Watts would like to say, "To everyone back home, I love and miss you very much. I am very excited to be over here and love doing this job. I hope to hear from you all soon. RAKKASAN!!!"



PFC Maldonado comes to us from Batesville, Texas. Miguel has been in the Army for a little over a year and will be celebrating his 21st Birthday coming up in January. PFC Maldonado will be married to Elizabeth Maldonado for 4 years in March. They have a 3 year old daughter named Anayelii and a newborn son Miguel Iston who is only a couple of weeks old. Miguel is currently in 1st Platoon and has been with this company since February. This is his first deployment and he is doing great things so far. He plays a crucial role in the company as a Squad Designated Marksman (SDM) and currently functions in our counter-IED campaign. He is also a recent graduate from the US Army Sniper School of which we only have 2 in the entire company. Miguel hopes to bring his recently acquired knowledge and skills to the fight and help out in any way he can. His job performance thus far has been second to none and he continues to be a vital asset to this company. Miguel would like to say "Hi to my beautiful wife and my two children back home. Take care you guys, daddy loves ya'll very much." He also wants to say "Hi mom and dad and to my Aunts and Uncles. I am doing fine. Also hello to my brother and sisters and cousins. What's up you guys? Finally hello to my wife's parents (suegros). HOLA!!!"



SGT Hagler was born in Port Neches, Texas and comes to us from Mississippi. Jon has been in the Army now for a little over 3 years and will be celebrating his 26th Birthday coming up in February. He is currently assigned to 3rd Platoon and has been part of the D Co family for over 2 years now. This is his second deployment with Dragon Company to Iraq. Jon is currently working as a Squad Designated Marksman (SDM) and finds himself manning observation posts with small dismounted elements. As a SDM, SGT Hagler plays a crucial role in the counter-IED fight that is ongoing in our sector. Currently Jon is continuing to perfect his occupation and his dismounted element's success and continues to be a crucial part of this company's mission. Jon would like to say "Hello to my parents Ricky and Cindy, my grandparents Reggie, Maebeth, Elaine, and Bruce, my brother Clint, two sisters Natalie and Tessa, and my nieces Tiffany and Ashlyn. I would also like to say hi to my girlfriend Colleen and my friends Josh, Mandy, and Mo." SGT Hagler would also like to extend his thanks to all of his family and friends for all of their support.





FYTS



Congratulations

NEXT FRG MEETING

The next FRG Meeting will be held on December 13, 2005 at 6pm at Mann Theater as part of the Deployment Briefing.

DELTA COMPANY GEAR

Delta Co. is selling fleece blankets. Please see order form.

GET YOUR RAKKASAN GEAR

Available for Purchase:
Yellow Ribbon Car Magnets: 1 for \$3 or 2 for \$5.
Cookbooks are \$10.00.
We are doing another t-shirt order. We have attached the order form.

You may purchase the cookbooks and magnets by sending a check made out to 1-187 BN FRG Fund to the following address:

Karla Ayala
4975 B Harrison Street
Fort Campbell, KY
42223

THANKSGIVING FEAST

The Rakkasan dining facility is serving Thanksgiving dinner on November 23rd from noon to 2pm. The cost is \$5.80; E-4 and below \$4.90.

HERE FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Your FRG Leaders and your POCs are here to help you through this deployment. Feel free to contact us with any problems or questions.

ADDRESS FOR OTHER COMPANIES

Rank Soldiers Name
Company (ie HHC, B. C. or FSC)
1-187, 3RD BCT, 101st
FOB Summerall
APO, AE 09349

PFC and Mrs. Maldonado on the birth of their son, Miguel Iston.
Weight: 7lbs 1oz
Length: 20 inches

SPC and Mrs. Richards on the birth of their daughter, Jahyla Eloisa.
Weight: 6lbs 4 oz
Length: 19 inches

POST OFFICE PERKS

The Post Office has \$7.77 pre-paid boxes to be sent to APO addresses regardless of weight.

They may be picked up at your local post office.

Also, you can call 800-610-8734 to request your FREE care kit which consists of 20 boxes, tape, and custom forms. Supplies are free, but postage must be affixed.

If you would like to avoid the lines at the post office and have your packages picked up at your house, please visit the US Postal Service's website for directions at <http://www.usps.com>.

Insuring packages: When purchasing insurance on packages for soldiers please keep in mind that all packages insured for \$50.00 and over will require the soldier to sign for the package. This may result in delivery delays.

SUPER SATURDAYS

The first Saturday of every month is known as super Saturday. You are entitled to 5 free hours at the Daycare center. In the month of December they are doing it on Dec 3, 10, and 17th. You need to be registered with CDC to use service.

SIGNING OF BANNER

We are in the process of signing a banner to send to the guys. If you would like us to write on message on it for your soldier, please email me by Nov.15 at losayalas@hotmail.com

BATTALION EVENTS

December 3rd The Army/Navy Tailgate Party will be held at the BN headquarters (classroom and outside). More details to follow.

December 10: The Chamber of Commerce Magic at Campbell Christmas party will be held from 11am-3pm at the FRC.

December 13: The first of 4 quarterly deployment update briefing will held at 6pm. This will be in the Mann theater.

Also mark your calendar for March 15, 2006, May 23rd, and one in September.

THANK YOU

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED CONTRIBUTE IN THE PRODUCTION OF THE CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS FOR OUR SOLDIERS.

EMAILS

If you are interested in being added to our email roster please email me at losayalas@hotmail.com

Mid-Tour Leave Information

> Here's the plan for Rear D and FRG integration to make sure families have a "heads up" that their Soldier is headed home for midtour.

> Midtours will begin around the 1ST week of December.

> 1. About 2 weeks prior to any midtour leaves, Rear D will be sent a manifest by the unit forward with the names of the Soldiers scheduled to come home on midtour. We expect it will be between 5-15

> **SOLDIERS PER WEEK.** This manifest will tell the Rear D what flight out of Iraq that Soldier is scheduled on. The Soldier will know and will have an opportunity to contact his family to share this news with them.

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> 2. The Rear D will contact, via email, the FRG Leaders in each company and share the names of their Company Soldiers coming home. The Rear D will add 3 days onto whatever date the Soldier was to leave Iraq as this is roughly how long it will take him to finally reach his midtour leave destination. This is the BALLPARK date the FRG Leaders will share with the family as to when to expect their Soldier's arrival at his final destination.

> 3. The FRG serves only as a "heads up" that the Soldier is scheduled for return along with giving a tentative date of arrival. The Soldier will be the PRIMARY source of specific flight information and arrival times and locations for the family. The Soldier will have access to reliable means of communication in order to share this information with the family. Because flights out of Iraq are not completely consistent and Soldiers can be "bumped" for mission reasons, the Rear D won't have exact arrival times until the Soldier is actually on his flight. At that point, the individual Soldier will be the best link for good information about his flight itinerary.

> 4. FRG Leaders should remind families of a few very important things:

> A. Soldiers returning for RED CROSS EMERGENCIES have priority on flights B. Flights are never 100% and can be cancelled due to maintenance or other Unforeseen situations. This affects when the Soldier will reach his final destination.

> C. Flights from **SUMMERALL** to Kuwait can take anywhere from 2-4 days, then of course a day flight from Kuwait to final destination will take a day

> D. This is not an exact science, so flexibility is absolutely essential. Families should NOT book nonrefundable vacation plans/tickets for specific dates for Midtour. Keep your plans flexibility until your Soldier actually arrives home!

> E. The Soldier gets 15 days of leave that begins the minute the Soldier arrives at the airport in **ATLANTA OR NEW YORK . THESE ARE THE PRIMARY POINTS THE INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS WILL FLY INTO. SOLDIERS WILL SIGN OUT AT THE USO THERE. THEN , ON THE 15th DAY THE SOLDIER HAS TO RETURN BACK AND SIGN INTO THAT SAME AIRPORT. REGARDLESS OF TRAVEL TIME IN THEATER, SOLDIER WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE 15 DAYS LEAVE . TRAVEL TIME IN THEATER TO AND FROM SUMMERALL WILL NOT AFFECT THE AMOUNT OF LEAVE THE SOLDIER GETS.;**

> F. The Soldier should know his return to Iraq flight information. The Soldier should also know the travel agency **or contact person** to call should he need to make any changes to these return travel plans. Need more information? Call your FRG Leader, your POC or the Rear D (270-798-5187.)